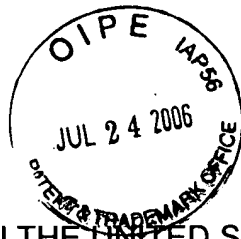


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Takehiko SHIGEFUJI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3724

Appl. No : 09/680,293

Examiner: C. Goodman

Filed : October 6, 2000

Confirmation No.: 1800

For : PUNCHING TOOL PROVIDED WITH TOOL IDENTIFICATION  
MEDIUM AND PUNCH PRESS PROVIDED WITH A TOOL  
IDENTIFICATION MEDIUM READER

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 24, 2006, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on June 26, 2006 (June 24, 2006 being a Saturday), and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed currently herewith, setting the period for response to expire July 24, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

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**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks** begin on page14 of this paper.